

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3020

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1904

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS, KN

SUBJECT: HO TAM'S PROPOSAL FOR PEACE AGREEMENT WITH US

1. PYONGYANG RADIO MARCH 25 BROADCAST PROPOSAL BY DPRK FONMIN HO TAM FOR PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE US AND NORTH KOREA. PROPOSAL WAS INCLUDED IN HO TAM'S REPORT TO THRID SESSION OF FIFTH SUPREME PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY AND CONSISTED OF FOLLOWING FOUR POINTS.

A. EACH SIDE SHALL PLEDGE NOT TO INVADE THE OTHER AND SHALL REMOVAL ALL DANGER OF DIRECT ARMED CONFLICT. US SHALL NOT INSTIGATE SOUTH KOREAN AUTHORITIES TO WAR PROVOCATION AND REPRESSION OF SOUTH KOREAN PEOPLE, SHALL NOT OBSTRUCT NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA IN REUNIFYING THE COUNTRY INDEPENDENTLY AND PEACEFULLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NORTH-SOUTH JOINT STATEMENT, AND SHALL NOT INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF KOREA.

B. TWO SIDES SHALL DISCONTINUE ARMS RACE AND STOP INTRODUCING WAR SUPPLIES INTO KOREA.

C. THE BERETS OF "UN FORCES" SHALL BE REMOVED FROM FOREIGN TROOPS IN SOUTH AND THEY SHALL ALL BE WITHDRAWN WITH THEIR WEAPONS AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.

D. KOREA SHALL NOT BE MADE A MILITARY BASE OF ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY AFTER WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA.

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2. TO TAM SAID THAT PROPOSED AGREEMENT WOULD REPLACE EXISTING ARMISTICE. HE SAID AGREEMENT SHOULD BE CONCLUDED DIRECTLY BETWEEN NORTH KOREA AND THE US. SINCE THE US HAS ITS TROOPS IN THE SOUTH, HOLDS SUPREME COMMAND OF ROK ARMED FORCES, AND WAS SIGNATORY TO ARMISTICE AGREEMENT. WHILE HE PREFERRED PANMUNJOM FOR DISCUSSION OF AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH AT HIGHER LEVEL THAN MAC, HE SAID NORTH KOREA IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER THIRD COUNTRY LOCATION.

3. ACCORDING TO PYONGYANG RADIO, SUPREME PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MARCH 25. APPROVED LETTER TO BE SENT TO US CONGRESS EMPHASIZING THAT PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF KOREAN QUESTION IS IMPOSSIBLE AS LONG AS US TROOPS REMAIN IN SOUTH AND URGING THAT CONGRESS AND USG CONSIDER NORTH KOREA'S PROPOSAL.

4. COMMENT: NORTH KOREAN PROPOSAL, WHICH TOTALLY IGNORES ROKG, IS AT LEAST PARTLY A PROPAGANDA MOVE DESIGNED TO DRAW ATTENTION TO (A) PRESENCE US FORCES IN SOUTH, (B) US OPCON OVER ROK FORCES, AND (C) UN INVOLVEMENT. IN PRESENTING IT, HO TAM ONCE AGAIN REFERRED TO PRESIDENT PARK'S NONAGGRESSION PACT PROPOSAL AND REITERATED NORTH KOREAN LINE THAT ROKG IS NOT MASTER OF ITS OWN MILITARY AND THEREFORE NOT QUALIFIED TO CONCLUDE SUCH AN AGREEMENT.

5. HOWEVER, HO TAM PROPOSAL MAY HAVE BROADER PURPOSES. ROKG BELIEVES THAT THERE ARE SOME FURTHER SIGNS NORTH MAY BE TAKING SOFTER LINE IN SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE, SPECIFICALLY AT MARCH 27 SNCC DEPUTY CO-CHAIRMAN'S MEETING. FURTHER, NORTH KOREANS HAVE TAKEN INITIATIVE TO POSTPONE MAC MEETING WHICH THEY HAD ORIGINALLY PROPOSED (SEPTEL. WE ARE WATCHING THESE DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY.

6. DEPT IN BEST POSITION TO DETERMINE PRSS GUIDANCE. WOULD RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, THAT ANY RESPONSE FIRMLY REJECT NORTH KOREAN DEMANDS FOR UNILATERAL DEALINGS WITH US, AND WITHDRAWAL OF OUR FORCES. IN OUR COMMENTS, WE SHOULD ALSO CALL ATTENTION TO PRESIDENT PARK'S NONAGGRESSION PACT PROPOSAL. HABIB

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